

## Claims

1. A pole for a hand pallet truck comprising:

a pole bar which is linked to a support for a steerable wheel at its lower end and connected to a loop-shaped handle at the other end,

an operating device within the space defined by the handle, the operating device being attached to a holding extension projecting into the handle in prolongation of the bar, and being connectable to a lifting apparatus of the hand pallet truck via a traction and/or pushing element, and, if applicable, being connectable via a second traction and/or pushing element to a brake of the hand pallet truck,

wherein an operating lever is disposed on either side of the extension, the operating levers being pivotally mounted on the holding extension in a plane essentially defined by the handle,

characterized in that the operating device has a housing (20), in which first and second mounting places (50, 52) are disposed, one for each operating lever, each operating levers projecting through a slot (42, 44) in the side of the housing (20) with an actuating portion, in that the mounting places (50, 52) are identically constructed and preferably arranged symmetrically to the axis of the holding extension, in that a first operating lever (24) is mounted at the first mounting place (52) and optionally a second or a third operating lever (70, 22) is mountable at the second mounting place (50), wherein the second operating lever (70) is adapted for connection with the second traction and/or pushing element (76) for the brake, in that the first and third operating levers (24, 22) are shaped identically and have a coupling portion each, in that a coupling mechanism connected to the first traction and/or pushing element is disposed inside the housing (20), wherein the coupling mechanism is constantly engaging the coupling portion of the first operating lever (24) and is able to engage

the coupling portion of the third operating lever (22) when it is mounted at the second mounting place, and finally in that inside the housing (20) is provided a locking device for the second operating lever (70), wherein the locking device may be actuated from a locking and unlocking lever (80) mounted at the third mounting place (82) and extending to the same side as the second or third operating lever (70, 24).

2. The pole of claim 1, wherein the first and third operating levers (24, 22) are coupled by the coupling mechanism such that pulling the first or third operating lever (24, 22) or both out of a neutral position and away from the pole bar causes a lowering operation and pushing a single operating lever (24, 22) out of the neutral position towards the pole bar allows a lifting operation of the lifting apparatus.

3. The pole of claim 1, wherein an interlock portion (86) having a tothing (88) is disposed in the housing (20) and a catch (92) is cooperating with the tothing such that when pulling the second operating lever (70), the catch (92) ratchets along the tothing (88) and, when the second operating lever (70) has finished moving, engages one of the tooth spaces, and the locking and unlocking lever (80) is coupled to the catch (92) to disengage it from the tothing (88).

4. The pole of claim 3, wherein the catch (92) or the locking and unlocking lever (80) is biased by a spring (84).

5. The pole of claim 3, wherein the catch (92) and the locking and unlocking lever (80) are mounted on a common shaft on the second operating lever (70).

6. The pole of claim 1, wherein the first, second and/or third operating levers (24, 70, 22) have the same geometric shape.

7. The pole of claim 1, wherein the actuating portion (72) of the second operating lever (70) is made from a different material and/or has a different surface and/or a different colour or has a different shape than the first or third operating levers (24, 22).

8. The pole of claim 1, wherein the coupling mechanism is constructed such that an operating lever (22, 24) remains in the neutral position when the other one is being pulled.

9. The pole according to one of the claim 8, wherein the coupling mechanism is constructed such that when shifting the operating lever in pushing direction and back to the neutral position, the operating levers are moved synchronously.

10. The pole of claim 1, wherein the coupling mechanism includes a shifting element (80) which is linearly movable inside the housing (20) and has a tooth rack portion (58) with a toothing (64, 62) on opposing side and wherein the first and third operating levers (24, 22) each have a toothed portion engaging with one toothing of the tooth rack portion each.

11. The pole of claim 10, wherein the inner end portions (48, 74, 46) of the operating levers (24, 70, 22) cross each other inside the housing (20) and their mounting place (48, 50) is disposed on the respective opposite side of the shifting element (60).

12. The pole of claim 1, wherein the housing (20) is made up of two shells (32, 34), the dividing plane of which is disposed in or parallel to the pivotal plane of the operating levers (24, 70, 22).

13. The pole of claim 12, wherein the housing shells have a socket portion which is capable of receiving a tube portion of the holding extension.

14. A pole for a hand pallet truck comprising:

a pole bar which is linked to a support for a steerable wheel at its lower end and connected to a loop-shaped handle at the other end,

an operating device within the space defined by the handle, the operating device being attached to a holding extension projecting into the handle in prolongation of the bar,

wherein an operating lever is disposed on either side of the extension, the operating levers being pivotally mounted on the holding extension in a plane essentially defined by the handle, wherein one operating lever acts on a traction or pushing element connectable to a lifting apparatus of the hand pallet truck and the second operating lever acts on a second traction or pushing element connected to the brake of the hand pallet truck and a locking and/or unlocking lever pivotally mounted inside the operating device which in a first position of the second operating lever locks the same and in a second position unlocks the second operating lever,

characterized in that a catch (92) is movably mounted on the second operating lever (70) inside the housing (20) for the operating device, the catch cooperating with a tothing (88) in an interlock portion (86) in the housing (20) to lock the second operating lever (70) in given pivotal positions, in that the locking and unlocking lever is tiltably mounted inside the housing and coupled to the catch (92) and the catch (92) or the locking and/or unlocking lever (80) are biased by a spring (84).